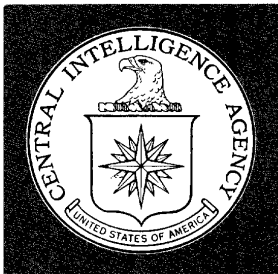


~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA / SAVA / WVIN 701107



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 7 November 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

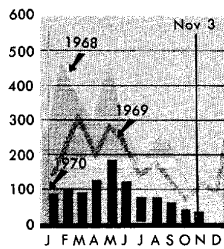
For the President Only

~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

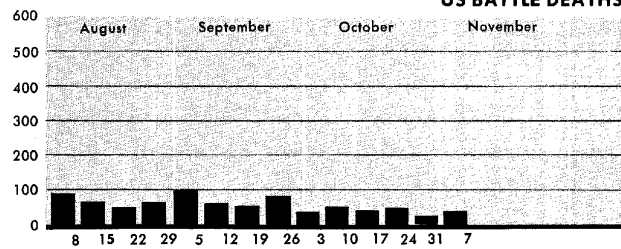
Weekly average for each month



AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1970

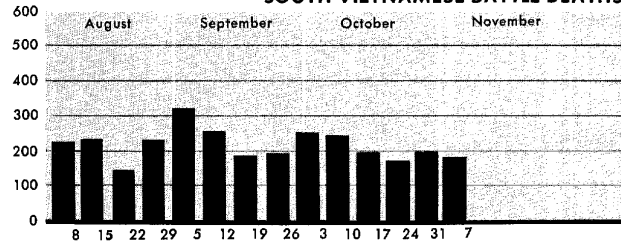
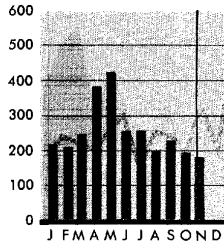
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



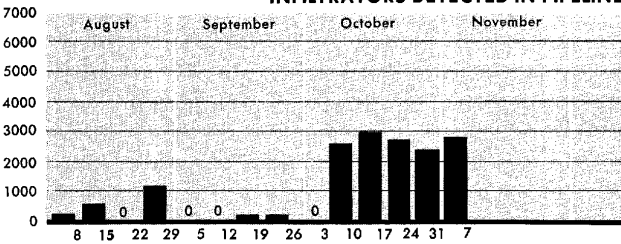
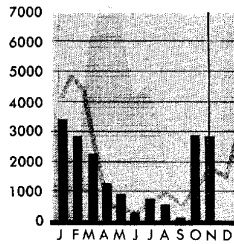
increased to 35 from last week's 24.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



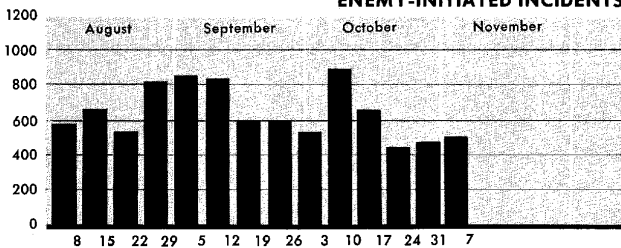
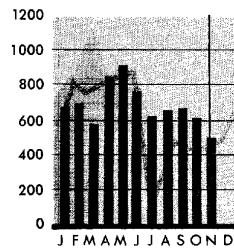
decreased slightly to 180 from the 194 of last week. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



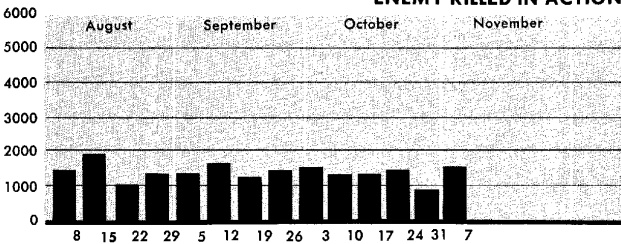
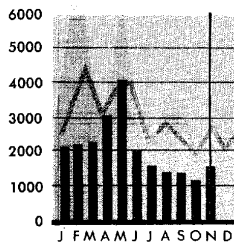
stand at five battalion-size groups with a combined strength of 2,800. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 is now an estimated 13,500 - 15,000.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



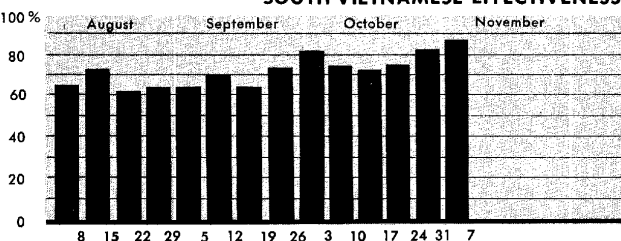
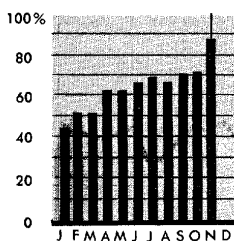
rose to 499 from last week's 476.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



jumped to 1,584 from the 909 of last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces increased to 87% from last week's 83%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated action remained at a relatively low level throughout South Vietnam, although attacks by fire continued against isolated outposts in the Delta. In the northern provinces, widespread flooding still limited activity by both sides, but there was a flurry of sizable contacts near Hoi An in Quang Nam Province.

In north Laos, government forces are expanding their holdings west of the Plain of Jars while enemy units were active east and south of the Plain and are making preparations to attempt to retake lost positions. In south Laos, irregulars are withdrawing after planting the Lao flag in Muong Phine and mining several enemy roads in the Panhandle. Small interdiction teams continue to harass roads to the south, while the enemy has maintained pressure on friendly sites on the Bolovens Plateau.

During the week in Cambodia, Communist offensive activity remained at a low level throughout most of the country. Several Cambodian and South Vietnamese clearing operations against suspected Communist concentrations and base areas, though making only limited contact, were the highpoints of activity.

Enemy Infiltration

Five battalion-size groups with a combined strength of 2,800 were detected enroute to South Vietnam during the week, raising the total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 to some 13,500 - 15,000. The numerical sequence of the designations of the groups detected suggests that at least seven additional groups are about to enter or have already entered the infiltration pipeline. In addition to the Vietnam-bound groups, two large groups with unusual designators have been detected. No firm evidence is yet available, but it is likely that these latter groups are part of an NVA unit, probably of regimental size, being deployed to southern Laos. Similar groups were first observed in September.

South Vietnam Developments

The government may soon find itself in the middle of renewed controversy over the Tran Ngoc Chau case, regardless of whether or not Chau is released from jail. Hawkish deputies in the Lower House have condemned the Supreme Court decision which declared Chau's arrest unconstitutional; they consider such an act "favorable to the Communists." On the other hand, opposition groups are gearing up to make the case a major issue if Chau is not released. Thieu regards the maintenance of a firm anti-Communist stance as essential to his domestic position, and he may well use extra legal means, if necessary, to keep Chau under detention.

Communist Developments

During the past two years, the Communists have made drastic changes in the organization and deployment of their armed forces reflecting the shift from a "general offensive" strategy in South Vietnam in 1968 to one of small-unit actions throughout Indochina in 1970. Whereas in mid-1968, nearly 60 regular infantry regiments were committed to South Vietnam, now only a few more than 20 are active (many in remote areas). The other regiments have either been broken up or moved out of South Vietnam. These shifts underscore the enemy's changing priorities and the emergence in Hanoi's eyes of an Indochina war. Although much of the enemy's regular strength has been directed away from objectives in South Vietnam, a large part of the enemy's main force is still deployed intact in the contiguous areas of south Laos (six regiments), Cambodia (twelve regiments), and southern North Vietnam (about ten regiments).

Several reports this week have highlighted the continuing difficulties plaguing North Vietnam. [REDACTED] believes the leadership is deeply concerned over its military situation in the south vis-a-vis the Vietnamization and pacification programs. He also pointed to signs of economic and manpower difficulties in the north as reflected in the further use of women

in the labor force, the regime's calls for increased army enlistments, and in what he describes as the inefficiency in economic and governmental administration. Internal problems were seemingly underscored late last month when the government adopted relatively severe measures against alleged abuses of public and private property in the urban and rural sectors by, among others, party cadres and the "unmotivated," as well as criminal elements in the society. Serious morale problems in the army were also reported by [REDACTED] who recently defected in Laos and estimates that the desertion rate among troops destined for front-line service is in the 20-30 percent range. Such reports suggest that there has been a less than enthusiastic response by the population to the regime's demands for greater sacrifices. 25X1X

~~Top Secret~~